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Director of Central Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

[redacted]

3.5(c)

BETTY

National Intelligence Daily

Saturday
17 April 1982

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CPAS NID 82-090JX

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ARGENTINA-UK: Contingency Planning

Although the Argentine intelligence service is engaged in contingency planning for action against US citizens in Argentina, such action is probably unlikely unless security officials conclude the US is clearly biased toward the UK. Soviet naval activity remains at a moderate level. 3.3(b)(1) 3.5(c)

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3.3(b)(1)

contingency planning for operations against US citizens is being coordinated by the 601st Intelligence Battalion, the operational arm of the Argentine intelligence service responsible for clandestine antisubversive activities, including many so-called "disappearances." In addition, personnel responsible for routine intelligence collection activities in Buenos Aires have been withdrawn from their tasks and told to make ready for "combat." 3.5(c)

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The Chief of the Federal Police reportedly stated that his force probably would do little to assist US citizens in trouble. The Federal Police also are responsible for protecting the US Embassy. 3.5(c)

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Comment: The reports of contingency planning probably are true, but the likelihood of action against US nationals is less certain. If security officials conclude the US is clearly biased in favor of the UK, they may take some form of action on their own against US citizens, including US officials in Buenos Aires. 3.3(b)(1) 3.3(b)(1)

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could assist in identifying key US personnel. 3.5(c)

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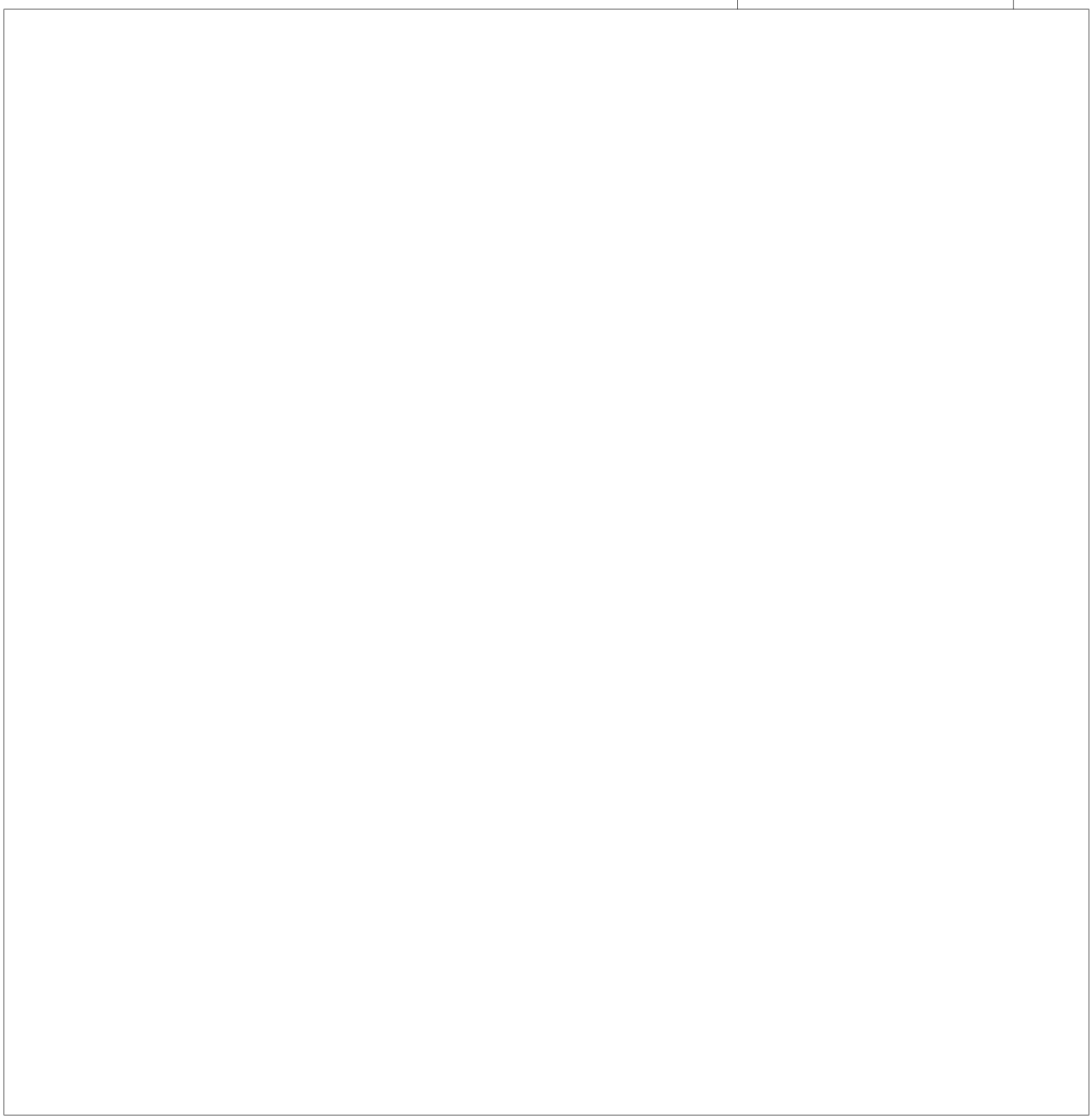

Economic Pressure on Argentina

Argentine Economic Minister Alemann continues to deny that the financial measures against his country will force authorities to change their tough monetarist 20 economic strategy or to impose controls on the financial system. He reportedly believes that the current situation will be short-lived. Individuals continue to

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withdraw their bank deposits, interest rates have soared, and demands on the central bank to provide relief are growing. (C NF)

Comment: Argentines have traditionally reacted to uncertain political and economic situations by converting financial assets into dollars and overseas deposits. Although Alemann may be correct that this is a short-term panic, the continued loss of funds will make it increasingly difficult for the central bank not to resort to the printing press, aggravating inflation and signaling a breakdown in the government's economic austerity program. [redacted]

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